United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations to participate in governance of Sarajevo District for two years, according to agreement reached today by three parties to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina; International Human Rights Monitoring Mission is also to be established.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses serious concern at deterioration of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan; calls on Armenian Government to use its "unique influence" to bring about end to hostilities, citing threat to peace and security in region.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says Somalia must be fully disarmed if UNOSOM II is to implement its mandate; recommends assignment of extra troop brigade; says criminal elements must be brought to justice if security is to be restored.

+ UNOMUR begins deployment on Uganda side of Uganda-Rwanda border to see that no military assistance reaches Rwanda; observers and staff to be deployed by 8 September.

+ Cambodian Armed Forces attack position held by National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK), one of three or more NADK strongholds targeted in joint Cambodian military operation.

+ Chairman of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions tells Fifth Committee new procedures are needed for formulating peace-keeping cost estimates.

+ Suit by Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to prevent authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina from committing genocide against Bosnian Serbs to be heard by International Court of Justice on 25 August, together with second request for similar measures requested by Bosnia and Herzegovina against Federal Republic.

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An agreement on the governance of Sarajevo was announced in Geneva today between the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of the Constitutional Agreement of the Union of Republics of that country.

According to a statement issued this afternoon, the parties have agreed that the United Nations will participate in the governance of the Sarajevo District for two years, or less, if recommended by the Bosnian Presidency and with the agreement of the Security Council. The parties have committed themselves to finding a permanent solution during that period. The Sarajevo District is to be governed by a United Nations Administrator appointed by the Secretary-General and working under the supervision of his Special Representative.

According to the agreement, each "opstina" of Sarajevo and each Constituent Republic is to organize and control its own uniformed police force, with proportionally balanced ethnic composition. The parties have agreed that, as part of the deployment of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the country, there will be a large civilian police element whose principal task will be to monitor those police forces, to ensure that they do not oppress members of minority ethnic groups and that they contribute positively to the reversal of "ethnic cleansing" by protecting people returning from forced flight.

With regards to protecting human rights and reversing "ethnic cleansing", the right has been established of a refugee or displaced person to freely return, as part of the overall process of normalisation. All statements and commitments made under duress, particularly those relating to the relinquishment of rights to land or property, are to be treated as null and void.

The parties have agreed to the establishment by the Secretary-General of an International Human Rights Monitoring Mission. It is to be headed by a Human Rights Commissioner for Bosnia and Herzegovina based in Sarajevo and supported by international monitors deployed throughout the country. He will be expected to submit regular reports to the Secretary-General, who will report periodically to the Security Council.

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The Security Council today expressed serious concern at the deterioration of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In a statement read out by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council called on the Government of Armenia to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of Nagorny-Karabakh with its resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993).

The Council also expressed concern at the recent intensification of fighting in the area of Fizuli. It demanded an immediate end to hostilities, which endangered peace and security in the region, and an immediate, complete

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and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from Fizuli, Kelbadjar, Agdam and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan. The Council called on the Government of Armenia to use its "unique influence" to that end.

The Council reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and stressed its support for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) peace process. It called on all parties to refrain from any action that would obstruct a peaceful solution and welcomed the CSCE's intention to send a mission to the region to report on the situation.

The Council strongly reaffirmed its call for States not to supply arms which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of Azerbaijani territory. The Council also renewed its calls for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region, reminding the parties that they were bound by the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that all factions and warlords must be fully disarmed if the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) is to implement the other aspects of its mandate, political, civil or humanitarian. In a report dated 17 August, the Secretary-General said Somalia would not enjoy stability until criminal elements had been brought to justice as demanded by Security Council resolution 837 (1993). He also stated that the responsibility for the recent incidents that had led to the loss of life rested squarely with the faction leaders, in particular Mohamed Farah Aidid.

The Secretary-General went on to recommend that an extra brigade be assigned to UNOSOM II in order to extend its activities, pursue the programme of disarmament and tackle the refugee problem. Moreover, the extra troops would enable the Operation to fulfil its mandate sooner, and might be funded from appropriations already approved. The restoration of security and stability would also require the re-establishment of the Somali police force and the judicial and penal systems, and it was imperative that donor Governments provide adequate funds and training assistance. Aiding the political and reconciliation process was a high priority. UNOSOM II had sponsored meetings of clan elders in various regions, leading to the restoration of stable and secure conditions there.

Serious problems had been encountered in establishing UNOSOM II, which highlighted the inadequacies of existing procedures for dealing with a new generation of peace-keeping operations, the Secretary-General continued. Delays arising from established administrative, financial and logistical procedures had made their obsolescence obvious. The issue of command and control deserved attention in order to avoid complications that might weaken future operations. Risks to personnel could only be minimized if there were effective command and control on the ground by the Force Commander. While troop-contributing countries must be consulted and informed, the integrity of

the command and control of United Nations operations must always be respected, the Secretary-General stated.

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The United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) began deployment on the Uganda side of the Uganda-Rwanda border today to verify that no military assistance reaches Rwanda, in accordance with Security Council resolution 846 (1993). The deployment follows the signing of a peace agreement in Arusha, Tanzania, between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) on 4 August. A status of mission agreement was subsequently concluded between the Secretary-General and the Government of Uganda on 16 August.

The Mission, which will consist of 81 observers, 17 international staff and seven local support staff, should be fully deployed by 8 September. It is to be headed by Brigadier-General Romeo Dallaire of Canada, and observers have been contributed by Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Netherlands, Senegal, the Slovak Republic and Zimbabwe. The Mission will cost an estimated $8.5 million for an initial six-month period and will be subject to review every six months.

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The Cambodian Armed Forces (CAF) early this morning attacked a position held by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) at the village of Phum Chhat, a United Nations spokesman said today. It was one of three Khmer Rouge strongholds in the northwest Cambodian province of Bantey Meanchey targeted in a joint operation involving the different military forces that now form the unified Cambodian armed forces.

Unconfirmed reports indicated that there had been several NADK casualties. There had also been rumours, the spokesman said, of more CAF attacks on NADK positions in other provinces.

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C.S.M. Mselle, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), this morning urged Member States to develop new procedures for formulating peace-keeping estimates and for the legislative review of those operations by the General Assembly. Such a step was urgently needed, he said, in view of the many bottlenecks resulting from the sudden emergence of many large operations requiring billions of dollars per year.

Addressing the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) as it began its consideration of the financing of a number of peace-keeping operations, the Chairman said that the present procedures, whereby the cost of operations were reviewed separately several times a year, regardless of their size, had become cumbersome and laborious. He cited a proposal by the Secretary-General to establish a special financial period of 12 months for a number of current operations.

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Also this morning, the representative of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Community, urged the Secretariat to report on the financial authority of peace-keeping officials and on problems associated with contractual services.

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A suit by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to prevent the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina from committing genocide against the Bosnian Serbs is to be heard by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 25 August, together with a second request by Bosnia and Herzegovina for a similar measure against the Federal Republic.

The requests by both parties relate to the application of 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to which both countries are party. Under its Statute, the Court has the power to indicate provisional measures which ought to be taken to preserve the rights of either party, pending judgement on the merits of the case.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had filed a request on 20 March, submitted its second request on 29 July, stating that Yugoslavia had violated all of the protective measures ordered by the Court. The Federal Republic, in a request filed on 10 August, recalled its written intention to submit evidence to the Court establishing the responsibility of the Bosnian authorities for acts of genocide against the Serb people on its territory.

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